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Mulberry Missionary Baptist Association

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MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-first Annual Session

OF THE

Mulberry Missionary Baptist Association

HELD WITH

COLLIN'S CHAPEL CHURCH, CHILTON COUNTY, ALA.

September 28 and 29, 1898.

OFFICERS.

J.	M.	LANGSTON	MODERATOR	Sir Mile	Ale
R.	M.	HONEYCUTT	CLERE	Jemison,	Ala.

The next session will be held with Enon Church, 5½ miles east of Centerville, Bibb County, Alabama, on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October, 1899.

COLUMBUS, GKORGIA:
THOS. GILBERT, PRINTER AND MANUFACTURING STATIONER.
1896.



MINUTES.

COLLINS CHAPEL CHURCH, CHILTON COUNTY, ALA., Sept. 28, 1898.

According to previous arrangement, the delegates from the various churches composing the MULBERRY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION assembled with Collins Chapel Church, and at 11 o'clock the Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. G. W. Freeman, to a large and attentive congregation, and was enjoyed by the people very much, after which a recess was given for dinner.

The delegates reassembled in the church house. Eld. J. M. Langston, the former Moderator, read Acts xv., and the people

were led in prayer by Eld. W. C. Bledso.

The Association was then called to order by the former Moderator, who appointed Brethren Isaac Langston and E. F. Baber a-Reading Committee, and the churches were called, letters read, and the names of delegates enrolled. Names of delegates present as follows:

Rehoboth Church-M. F. Lawley, D. S. Smitherman.

Enon Church-No delegate present.

Macedonia Church-A. Glasscock, Y. O. Freeman.

Providence Church-J. A. Lowery, R. M. Honeyoutt.

New Salem Church-John Hewett, G. W. Hill, Felix Eiland, T. G. Williams.

Collins Chapel Church-W. Gore, T. J. Collins, A. Littleton, W. P. Murrah, D. H. Gentry.

Pleasant Grove Church-D. Z. Merchant, E. Z. Atchison.

Pleasant Hill Church-W. P. Scott, Madison Hubbard.

Center Hill Church-J. H. Martin.

Antioch Church.—J. M. Langston, G. W. Freeman, Sutton Smitherman, W. N. Yearger, F. M. Merchant, J. W. Wallace, M. D. Langston, D. Z. Woolley, W. H. Thomas.

Mars Hill Church-C. L. Langston, E. G. Coffer, H. Z. Barnes.

Union Greec Church—I. H. Benson, W. L. Honeycutt, Robert Cost, I. N. Martin.

Liberty Hill Church-J. N. Williams, J. W. Littlejohn.

Shady Grove Church-D. G. Smith, J. P. Smitherman, W. J. Jackson.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk by ballot. Eld. J. M. Langston was elected Moderator, and R. M. Honeycutt Clerk. On motion, the Moderator appointed as a Committee on Devotional Exercises for this meeting, the pastor and deacons of Collins Chapel Church.

A door was then opened, first, for churches; second, for correspondents. Received from

Montgomery Association-Eld. E. F. Baber.

Tuscaloosa-F. M. Wood.

Unity-S. M. Adams.

Shelby-E. R. Jackson.

Bust Liberty-W. C. Bledso, representing the State Missions.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees, to report during this session:

On Finance-D, Z. Woolley, T. G. Williams, D. Z. Merchant.

On motion, it was agreed to elect delegates to the State and Southern Baptist Conventions, and a person to preach the next Introductory Sermon, by ballot. After some discussion, it was deferred until to-morrow.

The Moderator filled the vacancies on the Standing Committees who were to report at this session, as follows:

On Temperance—H. Z. Barnes, D. Z. Merchant. Home Missions—A. Glasscock, M. D. Langston,

Orphans' Home-Henry Thomas.

On motion, it was agreed that the next session of this body be held with Enon Church, three miles west of Six Mile, in Bibb County, Ala., on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October 1899.

The Committee on Ministerial Education offered their report, which was read, and on motion to adopt, was discussed by S. Smitherman, E. F. Baber, J. M. Langston and F. M. Wood. It was then agreed to defer the adoption of the report until 8:30 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Association then adjourned until that hour.

SECOND DAY.

According to appointment the Association assembled, and aft r devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, the body was called to order, and by the direction of the Moderator the roll was called. The Moderator than announced the following stand-

ing committees whose duty it will be to report at the next session of this body:

On Sunday Schools-M. D. Langston, A. Glasscock.

On Temperance-J. J. Hicks, M. J. Payne,

On State Missions-W. A. Mims, T. G. Williams.

On Home Missions-W. H. Shaw, J. A. Lowery. On Foreign Missions-R. H. Long, J. P. Gentry.

On Foreign Missions—R. H. Long, J. P. Gentry.

On Ministerial Education—D. Z. Woolley, J. E. Jones. On Home Religion—D. C. Hubbard, D. Z. Merchant.

On Home Religion—D. C. Hubbard, D. Z. Merchant. On Periodicals—W. Y. Nix, Monroe Merchant.

On Orphans' Home-A. L. Foshee, John Hewett.

On Institute Work-S. Smitherman, M. F. Lawley.

The Association then took up the report of the Committee on Ministerial Education, which was then supplemented, and after some discussion, was adopted as follows:

On Ministerial Education.

SIX MILE, ALA., Sept. 28, 1898.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education beg leave to submit the following: Education is a great and grand gift. We believe it to be a God-given light. Because where there is no education there is darkness and ignorance, and where education has been fostered there springs up light and intelligence, and ignorance and darkness gives way. Hence the importance of educated ministry. We believe a man must first be called of God to the work, and then we believe it to be his duty to do all he can to improve himself. If he is not able to educate himself we believe it to be our duty to assist him in procuring an education. Now if a man is called of God to preach and has no education he will do some good, and if he has a primary education he can do more good, and if he has a finished education he can do still more good. Hence the importance of an educated ministry. Now, brethren, we are living in a fast age and the people are educating themselves. Foreign populations are flocking into our country and having a wonderful effect on our morals; infidels, skeptics, critics and atheists are now springing up, and if we should fail to educate our young gifts in the ministry what will be the result? Our Master's cause will suffer loss by our neglect. Now, brethren, let us awake from our sleep and do what we can to educate our young gifts for the ministry, The Lord said whatsoever our hands find to do, do it with our might. Brethren, here is something to do. May the Lord help us to see our duty and enable us to do it. As an Association let us do something for this cause. Let each church in our body send up something each year. Do this, brethren and, the Lord will bless us. Let us help to support the Howard, which is our institution of learning. She needs our co-operation and our prayers; so let us do what we can,

S. SMITHERMAN, Ch'n.

SUPPLEMENT—In addition to the above your committee would recommend that the churches of this Association make contributions to the Institute Board, which in the judgment of your committee, is one of the most helpful agencies to our preachers who have not had the advantage of college training.

S. SMITHERMAN, Ch'm.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools then made their report, and after reading, a motion to adopt it was discussed by S. M. Adams, W. A. Mims, and others. The report was adopted as follows:

On Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report as follows: No church can do her duty without a Sunday School. We believe that a Sunday School should be controlled and directed by the church, since the Sunday School is for the benefit of the church, and the place where the young and old should work and all alike be taught the word of God, And your Committee would recommend that our churches look well to the literature to be used in our schools. We recommend to our churches the Southern Baptist literature as being the best to use. Let each church of this Association give encouragement to the Sunday School work.

W. A. MIMS, Chn.

On motion, the Association adjourned one hour for refreshments, at which time dinner was served.

After reassembling, the Committee on Temperance made their report which, on motion to adopt, was discussed and adopted as follows:

On Temperance.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg to submit the following: God's Word teaches us to be temperate in all things, and that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. We rejoice in the fact that the cause of temperance is on rising ground. Many Christians who, but a few years ago made and used intoxicating liquors, have seen the evil affect of that practice and do not now patronize the still. But we regret that quite a number of our people are using too much strong drink.

Your Committee would challenge the friends of intoxicating beverages to point out one individual in all the world, made better by the use of or the making of whiskey. If any other article made by men had damaged as many souls and blighted as many homes as the manufacture and use of whiskey and brandy, we believe that every godly man and woman in all the land would be against it.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend our brethren to consider well before easting their suffrage for a drinking character.

The Moderator directed the election, by ballot, of delegates to the Conventions, and the preacher of the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of this Association, which resulted as follows:

To the Southern Baptist Convention-R. H. Long; G. W. Freeman,

alternate.

To the State Concention—G. W. Freeman, S. Smitherman, A. Glass-cock, J. P. Gentry, J. M. Langston, R. H. Long, A. L. Foshee, M. D. Langston, W. A. Wood.

To Preach the next Introductory Sermon-S. Smitherman,

The report of the Committee on State Missions was read, and after discussion, was adopted as follows:

On State Missions.

We find the spirit of missions clearly portrayed in the Bible. Every Christian possesses the spirit of missions, and that spirit will live until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ.

State Missions are as important as any, because all missions are for the preaching of the gospel as a witness, and for the salvation of men and women. We are glad to know that it is the purpose of our State Board to give its energies to two phases of this work, viz.: supplying destitution, and helping weak churches. Your Committee believes that when the Board enters fully upon this policy, it will receive the hearty sympathy and help of the denomination. To preach the gospel where it is not preached throughout our beloved State, and give the strong hand of sympathy and help to our weak and struggling churches, is surely a work that commends itself to every one who loves our Lord, and is anxious to see the glory of His kingdom extended. To this end, and with this policy in view, we heartily commend the work of our State Board.

COMMITTEE.

The report of the Committee on Home religion was then submitted, and after discussion, was adopted, as follows:

On Home Religion.

We, your Committee on Home Religion, beg leave to submit the following: We believe home religion to consist of various Christian duties, of public and secret devotion, a straight forward walk, and a Godly training in our dear homes. Those who practice it at home are not so much embarrassed abroad. We believe it to be the duty of every Christian father to pray in their family, and even in their business, and to set such Christian examples before their children as they would have them follow. We recommend that they pray often. We are sorry to know that so few of our brethren keep up family altars in their homes. It makes the home sweeter, the family more pleasant, and makes the way easier. May the Lord speed the time when every home will become a house of prayer, and every heart a fit temple for the indwelling of time.

The Committee on Periodicals made their report, which was adopted as follows:

Report on Periodicals.

We realize now that we are now living in the most enlightened age of the world's history, and that every class of industry, every organization and every society are striving, and we might say, are making great progress, and each year are ascending the ladder of fame until many of them have almost reached the climax. What is the cause of this great progress? Is it not because men are keeping themselves posted by means of periodicals? Do not the men of the various professions of the world read and study their respective journals and keep posted? Why are agriculturists making such wonderful improvements each year. It is because they have their periodicals, study their journals, exchange ideas, which is very important. Now let us notice some of our religious denominations, take for example Methodism. Look what wonderful progress it has made since its origin and is today rapidly progressing. Go to the home of our brother Methodist and what do you find? In almost every home you will find The Christian Advecate. They are reading their religious paper and are therefore interested in their religious work. But how is it with us as a denomination? What are we reading and in what are we interested. We dare say that The Alabama Baptist, our State organ, cannot be found in one-tenth of the homes in this Association, therefore we recommend that our members subscribe for it and read and learn of our denomination. Children learn to read by being in the presence of literature, and if they read corrupt literature they are apt to make corrupt men and women, but if they read good Baptist literature they will from the same principles make good Baptists. It has been said that a reading people soon become a thinking people, and a thinking people must soon become a great people; then if we give our children Baptist literature they make Baptist readers, and Baptist readers make Baptist thinkers and Baptist thinkers make great Baptists; and we furthermore earnestly request that all Baptist Sunday Schools use the Southern Baptist Convention series as their literature, and by so doing lend a helping hand for the furtherance of all our denominational life.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Z. WOOLLEY, Ch'n.

The Committee's report on Orphans' Home was then read and adopted as follows:

Report on Orphans' Home.

Few words should be necessary to persuade us to contribute to ne support of the orphan children—those who have no home where they may find food and raiment and shelter. Suppose it was may child or your child, left without a father or mother qualified to take care of it. We would be happy to know that it had a home where kind hands and loving hearts would care for it and train it up in the way it should go. This is done at the Baptist Orphans' Home, located at Evergreen, Conecuh county, on the railroad about half way between Montgomery and Mobile. It has been in operation for a few years, and many orphans have found in it a comfortable and happy home. Your committee has not the figures at hand to give detailed information, further than to say that last week there were 55 orphan boys and girls there. Most of them had become members of the Baptist Church, All who are old enough attend the State School, which is very near the Orphans. The children have the most careful training by Mrs. Ansley, an intelligent Baptist lady, and such assistants as are needed. Rev. J. W. Stewart is general manager, under a Board of Trustees. The institution is supported by the contributions of our people. Regular gifts are necessary to meet the demand. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and the widow in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Money or provisions should be sent to Rev. J. W. Stewart, Evergreen, W. H. THOMAS, Ch'n.

It was agreed, and the Clerk was ordered to have 600 copies of these minutes printed and deliver them to the churches, and that he receive \$10 for his services.

The Committee on Finance made the following report, which was received:

On Finance

Received	from the	Churches		Minutes\$ State Missions		
66	66	44	66	Home Missions		61
66	66	66	66	Foreign Missions		10
66	44	66	46	Orphans' Home	- 6	77
66	66	46	66	Institute Work	11	UU
4	Total Respectfo	ally submit	ted	D, Z. Woolley, C	55 h'n	44

Resolved, That this Association tender their thanks to Collins Chapel Church and community for their kindness and the generous manner in which they provided for our comfort while with them.

The Association, having finished the business of its session, adjourned to meet with Enon Church, Bibb county, Ala., on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October, 1899.

J. M. LANGSTON, Moderator,

R. M. HONEYCUTT, Clerk, Jemison, Ala. Six Mile, Ala.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The next meeting of the First District will be held with Mars Hill Church on Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in August, 1899. Introductory Sermon preached by J. H. Thomaa; S. Smitherman, alternate.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

First—Does the Bible teach that Christians are steadfast and unmovable in Christ, or are we commanded to be steadfast. Discussed by M. D. Langston and F. M. Langston.

Second—If we are saved by grace why then are the wicked lost as grace comes to all. Discussed by Jasper Gentry and Moses Payne.

Third—What is the greatest hindrance to Christianity at the present day? Discussed by S. E. Waldrupe and Ellis Scott.

SECOND DISTRICT.

The next meeting of the Second District will be held with Providence Church on Friday and Saturday before the third Sanday in July, 1899, Introductory Sermon by J. M. Thomas; L. B. Pounda, alternate.

SUBJECTS.

First—Is it in accord with God's word for preachers to be in politics or to hold a public office? Discussed by J. T. Martin, R. H. Long, S Smitherman and others.

Second—Should . ar preachers do anything besides preach the gospel according to the Bible P Discussed by W. A. Mins, W. H. Conway, S. W. Adams and others.

Third—Can a child of God through the neglect of duty be finally lost? Discussed by R. M. Honeycutt, J. P. Gentry, J. E. Champion and others.

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NAMES OF MINISTERS.

J. M. LANGSTON	Six Mile, Ala.
SUTTON SMITHERMAN	Six Mile, Ala,
8. D. POSEY	Randolph, Ala.
G. W. FREEMAN	Trio, Ala.
J. P. GENTRY	Jemison, Ala.
J. M. GOTHARD	Jemison, Ala.
R. M. HONEYCUTT	Jemison, Ala.
D. A. SEALE	Montevallo, Ala.
R. H. LONG	Brierfield, Ala.
A. L. FOSHEE	
JOHN HEWETT	
Licens	ed Ministers.
J. J. LOWERY	
A. GLASSCOCK	Randolph, Ala.
D. Z. MERCHANT	Randolph, Ala.



